

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION
INSTRUCTIONAL & INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Signs		NUMBER: IIM-TE-369
		SUPERSEDES:
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Deer and Other Large Animal Crossing Warning Signs		DATE: December 1, 2011 (Reissued August 18, 2016)
		SUNSET DATE: Upon Incorporation into the VA Supplement
DIRECTED TO: Regional Operations Directors Regional Traffic Engineers Regional Operations Maintenance Managers	APPROVAL: /original signed by/ Raymond J. Khoury, P.E. State Traffic Engineer Richmond, VA August 18, 2016	

Changes are shaded.

This memorandum provides policy, guidance, and options regarding the installation of deer and other large animal crossing warning sign.

The provisions of the current MUTCD addressing deer and other large animal crossing warning signs shall be followed in all VDOT applications; and, are amended to include the following:

STANDARD:

Large Animals may cross roadways infrequently and at random; or, may cross more frequently within an area that is a favored habitat, on a migratory route or a feeding route. Large Animal crossing warning signs such as Deer Crossing Warning Sign (W11-3) shall only be used in recognition of these habitat, migratory, or feeding occurrences and shall not be installed due to a random crossing or a limited number of vehicle-large animal collision.

GUIDANCE:

Deer Crossing Warning (W11-3) signs or other large animal crossing warning signs should be installed when the following combination of conditions are satisfied:

- 1) For any period of two years, there should be at least five reported large animal-vehicle crashes per mile per year; and,
- 2) Posted speed is 45 mph or greater.

OPTION:

When land use or traffic pattern changes occur or when deer or other large animal crossing incidences indicate that there has been a change in the habits of the animals; but, less than a two year crash history is available, an engineering study may be conducted. Based on the study results, the Regional Traffic Engineer may determine that the installation of Deer Crossing Warning (W11-3) signs or other large animal crossing warning signs is an appropriate action; and, if so, may call for the installation of such a sign.

GUIDANCE:

New installations and replacements of existing Deer Crossing Warning signs or other large animal crossing warning signs should include a mileage plaque (W7-3aP) posted in increments of 1, 2 or 3 miles. If a continuous crossing area extends beyond 3 miles, additional sign assemblies should be installed approximately every 3 miles. Even though in some cases, the concentrated areas of crossing activity may indicate that the mileage plaque posting could be less than 1 mile, the use of 1 mile is recommended as the minimum based upon motorists expectations, and the fact that the large animals may traverse the shoulder beyond the point of concentrated crossings.

Where the large animal crossing has been eliminated through wildlife fencing or other access modifications; or, where changes in the habitat or routing have substantially lessened the crossing activity, the existing warning signs should be removed or relocated as might be appropriate.

CC:

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